

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MAY 13, 2002
Approved Minutes
No Attachments

The Mansfield Town Council was called to order by Mayor Elizabeth Paterson at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Bellm, Haddad, Hawkins, Holinko, Paterson, Rosen, Schaefer, Stallard, Thorkelson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Holinko moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of

April 24,22,29, 2002 with a correction on April 29, 2002.

So passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Jim Severson, 205 Separatist Road, read his comments to the Town Council regarding the consideration of Mansfield Downtown Partnership as the Municipal Development Authority.

Ruth McLaughlin, 61 Separatist Road, expressed her concern that there may be widening of Separatist road without citizen input. Mr. Padick, Town Planner said that he had no knowledge of any such plans.

Ruth Moynihan, 37 Farrell Road, speaking for the group Citizens for Responsible Growth, stated that there is nobody against a Town Center, but there were concerns that this project be done correctly. She also felt that many people were not well informed as to the plans.

Helen Koehn, 83 Separatist Road, urged the Council to postpone the motion to accept the MDP until another meeting can be held so that the public can ask additional questions. She inquired what were the legal implications in building this, would the town be responsible if all the commercial areas were not rented?

A resident of 70 Birchwood Heights asked that the Council not act too hastily and to plan carefully for this project.

Allen Ward, 85 Ball Hill Road, expressed concern over the haste to establish a developer, and that there might be a conflict of interest of some members. It is only fair that a developer be chosen that will work for both parties.

Cynara Stites, Hanks Hill Road, urged the Council to postpone a decision tonight and have a meeting to give the citizens a chance to ask additional questions.

Carol Peterson, 88 Gurleyville Road, spoke in support of the proposal to designate the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc. as the Town's municipal development agency for the Storrs Center. She believed that the project had been thoughtfully developed and that this center is what the citizens have wanted. The partnership does include all three parties; the Town, the University of Connecticut and the businesses in the area. She urged that the Council proceed onward with this proposal.

Peter Millman, 122 Dog Lane, supported the concept of the Downtown Partnership, but urged that there be another meeting for further citizen participation. There are still questions that people have concerning the project.

Ayla Kardestuncer, 1641 Storrs Road, urged the Council to delay action on this issue until there can be another meeting and questions are answered for people in town.

At 8:05 p.m. the opportunity for public to address the Council was closed.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

Began at 8:05 p.m.

Mr. Larry Wagner, Consultant for the Small Cities Grant Program addressed the Council on the applications for Juniper Hill Village, and Senior Housing Improvements and Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Program

Marsha Zimmer, Administrator for Juniper Hill, discussed the real need for the small cities grant to renovate the existing kitchen at Juniper Hill Village. The number of persons using the facility has greatly increased and the kitchen no longer meets the code to serve such meals.

No further comments from the public.

Public Hearing closed at 8:10 p.m.

Mayor Paterson requested that item #6 Proclamation Honoring Lance Corporal Truman J. McManus, USMC be moved up on the agenda.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Bellm seconded to move this item up.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Holinko seconded to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached proclamation in honor of the life and service of Lance Corporal Truman J. McManus, United States Marine Corps.

So passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

2. Issues Regarding the UConn Landfill Including the UConn Consent Order, Public Participation Relative to the Consent Order and Well Testing

No action necessary.

3. Environmental Impact Evaluation, UConn Greek Campus Housing, Central Dining Services

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Rosen seconded to authorize the Mayor to co-endorse the May 14, 2002 letter from the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Town Council regarding the Environmental Impact Evaluation for the University of Connecticut's proposed Greek Campus Housing and Central Dining Facility.

So passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

4. Downtown Mansfield Concept Master Plan-Implementation Alternatives

Mr. Stallard moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to designate the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc. as the Town of Mansfield's municipal development agency for the Storrs Center area and to authorize the Partnership to proceed with the preparation of a municipal development plan pursuant to Sections 8-200b and 32-242a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Town Manager, Martin Berliner, addressed the Council as to the recommendation.

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Bellm seconded to table this motion.

Show of hands: In Favor: Bellm, Hawkins, Holinko, Thorkelson

Against: Haddad, Paterson, Rosen, Schaefer, Stallard

Motion Failed. Discussion continued.

Mr. Bellm moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to postpone to date certain and to schedule an informational meeting on May 20, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. to have a question and answer time for the public and the Council regarding the Downtown Mansfield Concept Master Plan.

Consultants from Milone and MacBroom will be available to answer questions.

In Favor: Bellm, Rosen, Holinko, Hawkins, Thorkelson, Haddad, Schaefer

Against: Stallard

Motion so passed.

5. Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Mansfield and Windham Hospital

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Holinko seconded to authorize the Town Manger to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Mansfield and Windham Community Memorial Hospital for the purpose of providing wellness services to seniors for the period beginning July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003.

So passed unanimously.

7. Proposed Revisions to Mansfield's Subdivision and Zoning Regulations

Town Planner, Greg Padick, was present to answer any questions by the Town Council.

No action by Council needed.

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to move up item #12

So passed unanimously.

12. Emergency Services Operations and Management Study

Dr. Amy K. Donahue, Principal Investigator, presented the final report of the issues confronting the operations and management of the emergency services in the Town of Mansfield. She thanked the many persons who were willing to assist in this project. Her recommendations in this study are advisory in nature. She presented a summary of her report and answered questions of the Council.

At 10:10 p.m. the presentation ended.

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to reconvene the established working group of staff and fire departments to develop a plan of action to implement the Emergency Services Operations and Management Study.

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to amend it to have two members of the Council in the group.

Amendment failed by voice vote. One Council member abstained
Main motion so passed unanimously.

8. Financial Statements Dated March 31, 2002

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Holinko seconded to refer the Financial Statements dated March 31, 2002 to the Finance Committee.

So passed unanimously.

9. Right-of-way Agreement Authorization-Birch Road Bikeway

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to authorize the Town Manager to execute the "Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Mansfield for Rights of way Activities in conjunction with the Federal Transportation Enhancement Program for Acquisition of Property for the Bikeway/Walkway Extension in the Town of Mansfield"

So passed unanimously.

10. Proposed Amendment to Town of Mansfield Fee Schedule-Assessor's Maps

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to amend the Town's Fee Schedule to set the prices as follows: Small Assessor Plot/Prints at \$5 each, D-size Assessor Plot/Prints at \$20 each and Full-size Assessor Plot/Prints at \$35 each.

So passed unanimously.

11. Local Bridge Grant Application-Mt. Hope Road Bridge

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to authorize the Town Manager to submit a "Preliminary Application for the Local Bridge Program: to the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) for the replacement of the Mt. Hope Road Bridge.

So passed unanimously.

13.State of Connecticut Volunteer Recognition Program

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Rosen seconded to refer the State of Connecticut Public Services Award Program to the Committee on Committees to develop and submit a list of nominees from the Town of Mansfield.

So passed unanimously.

14. Proposal to Honor Retiring Town Employees

Mr. Rosen moved and Mr. Holinko seconded to implement the Personnel Committee's proposed recognition program for retiring and active town employees.

So passed unanimously.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Richard Pellegrine spoke on the Prison Liaison committee. By the summer there will be 950 prisoners in the Correctional Facility. The State Police Academy is closing and the facilities will then house the additional prisoners. The Committee would like to have the calling system be updated.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson read a letter from Mr. Stallard who will be resigning and moving to Lexington Virginia on June 13, 2002. The June 10th meeting will be his last.

X. TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

The Public Works Director, Mr. Lon Hultgren met with the DEP and Commissioner Rocque on the Separatist Road detention pond. The University of Connecticut has submitted four alternative plans on the issue.

The Annual Town Meeting will be at 8:00 p.m. at the Middle School Auditorium on May 14, 2002.

Mr. Stallard moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to pass the mill rate on the 28th of May.

The concrete will be poured for the Community Center as the weather permits.

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS XII. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

15. Governor Rowland re: "Older Americans Month"
16. Governor Rowland re: "Senior Center Month"
17. M. Berliner re: Spring Weekend
18. L. Hultgren and T. Webb re: Town Work Crew Schedule-2002 Construction Season
19. Department of Public Works re: Roadside Mowing Program
20. Department of Planning and Zoning re: Mansfield Lands of Unique Value Study
21. C. Pellegrine and J. Gerdson re: Regional School District #19 Referendum Results
22. Bill Status Report for Substitute for Raised H.B. No. 5708, "An Act Concerning Revisions to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act"
23. Office of Policy and Management re: 2000 Preliminary Equalized Net grand List
24. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities re: Results of Statewide Poll on State and Local Taxes, State Budget Deficit, and Related Issues
25. Connecticut Council of Small Towns "Town Crier"
26. Quinebaug Valley Community College re: Recent Re-Accreditation Review
27. E. Smith re: E.O. Smith High School Earth Day Recognition

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Stallard seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor
Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk